

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

IN RE PETITION OF INDEX  
NEWSPAPERS LLC D/B/A THE  
STRANGER TO UNSEAL ELECTRONIC  
SURVEILLANCE DOCKETS,  
APPLICATIONS, AND ORDERS

MISC. CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:17-mc-00145 RSL

**[PROPOSED] ORDER RE: PETITION  
TO UNSEAL ELECTRONIC  
SURVEILLANCE DOCKETS,  
APPLICATIONS, AND ORDERS**

## **ORDER**

This matter comes before the Court on the petition of Index Newspapers LLC d/b/a The Stranger seeking public docketing and unsealing of certain electronic surveillance applications and orders filed in the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington.

Having considered the written submissions and oral arguments of Petitioner and the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington, and the entirety of the record before the Court in this matter, the Court **ORDERS** the following:

## PROSPECTIVE RELIEF

**For new cases filed in the Western District of Washington after the date of this Order:**

1. All cases seeking any of the following shall be designated as a Magistrate Judge (MJ) case or as a Miscellaneous (MC) case in the Court's CM/ECF system, and the docket sheets in

ORDER RE: PETITION TO UNSEAL ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE DOCKETS, APPLICATIONS, AND ORDERS - 1

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1 these cases shall be unsealed within 180 days after case opening, except to the extent the  
 2 Court grants a request for continued sealing:

- 3 a. an order authorizing the installation and use of a pen register or a trap and trace  
     4 device under 18 U.S.C. § 3123;
- 5 b. an order requiring a third party to provide information, facilities, or technical  
     6 assistance to law enforcement officials under 18 U.S.C. § 3124;
- 7 c. an order under 18 U.S.C. § 2703(d) requiring disclosure of communications,  
     8 records, or other information pertaining to a subscriber or customer, as described  
     9 in 18 U.S.C. § 2703(b) or (c);
- 10 d. a warrant requiring a provider of electronic communication service or remote  
     11 computing service to disclose the contents of a wire or electronic communication  
     12 as described in 18 U.S.C. § 2703(a) or (b), or a record or other information  
     13 pertaining to a subscriber or customer as described in 18 U.S.C. § 2703(c);
- 14 e. an order requiring a third party to provide technical assistance to law enforcement  
     15 officials under 18 U.S.C. § 2511(2)(a)(ii); or
- 16 f. an order requiring a third party to provide technical assistance to law enforcement  
     17 officials under 28 U.S.C. § 1651(a).

- 18 2. All applications and supporting documents, including affidavits, seeking any of 1(a)-(f)  
     19 and all orders granting or denying said applications shall be unsealed within 180 days after  
     20 case opening, except to the extent the Court grants a request for continued sealing.
- 21 3. Requests for continued sealing shall identify with particularity the information in each  
     22 docket sheet and document to remain sealed and the compelling interest (e.g., to protect an  
     23 ongoing law enforcement investigation) that justifies the continued sealing of that  
     24 information. Except as otherwise provided by the Court, a continued sealing order shall  
     25 expire after 180 days, at which time the sealed information shall be unsealed and made

1 publicly available. The Court may authorize the redaction of certain information (e.g.,  
 2 personal identifiers) from unsealed docket sheets and documents.

3 4. To the extent not otherwise publicly disclosed, the following information shall be publicly  
 4 disclosed in a notice filed at the time of the initial application: (1) law enforcement agency  
 5 filing the application; (2) jurisdictional authority (e.g., Wiretap Act, SCA, Pen/Trap  
 6 Statute, Fed. R. Crim. P. 41); (3) relief sought (e.g., search warrant, seizure warrant, wire  
 7 interception, pen register, trap and trace, tracking device, prospective cell site data,  
 8 historical cell site data, toll records, email contents, customer account records); (4) type of  
 9 crime under investigation; (5) identity of recipient of order/warrant (e.g., identity of phone  
 10 company, Internet Service Provider).

#### 11 **RETROSPECTIVE RELIEF**

#### 12 **For cases filed in the Western District of Washington between January 1, 2011 and the date** 13 **of this Order:**

14 5. All docket sheets for cases seeking any of the following shall be unsealed within 180 days  
 15 after the date of this Order, except to the extent the Court grants a request for continued  
 16 sealing:

17 a. an order authorizing the installation and use of a pen register or a trap and trace  
 18 device under 18 U.S.C. § 3123;

19 b. an order requiring a third party to provide information, facilities, or technical  
 20 assistance to law enforcement officials under 18 U.S.C. § 3124;

21 c. an order under 18 U.S.C. § 2703(d) requiring disclosure of communications,  
 22 records, or other information pertaining to a subscriber or customer, as described  
 23 in 18 U.S.C. § 2703(b) or (c);

24 d. a warrant requiring a provider of electronic communication service or remote  
 25 computing service to disclose the contents of a wire or electronic communication

1 as described in 18 U.S.C. § 2703(a) or (b), or a record or other information  
2 pertaining to a subscriber or customer as described in 18 U.S.C. § 2703(c);

3 e. an order requiring a third party to provide technical assistance to law enforcement  
4 officials under 18 U.S.C. § 2511(2)(a)(ii); or

5 f. an order requiring a third party to provide technical assistance to law enforcement  
6 officials under 28 U.S.C. § 1651(a).

7 6. All applications and supporting documents, including affidavits, seeking any of 5(a)-(f)  
8 and all orders granting or denying said applications shall be unsealed within 180 days after  
9 the date of this order, except to the extent the Court grants a request for continued sealing.

10 7. Requests for continued sealing shall be filed within 120 days of the date of this order. Such  
11 requests shall identify with particularity the information in each docket sheet and document  
12 to remain sealed and the compelling interest (e.g., to protect an ongoing law enforcement  
13 investigation) that justifies the continued sealing of that information. Except as otherwise  
14 provided by the Court, a continued sealing order shall expire after 180 days, at which time  
15 the sealed information shall be unsealed and made publicly available. The Court may  
16 authorize the redaction of certain information (e.g., personal identifiers) from unsealed  
17 docket sheets and documents.

18  
19 **DATED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.  
20  
21 \_\_\_\_\_

22 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
23  
24  
25

1 Presented by:

2 Dorsey & Whitney LLP  
3 Attorneys for Petitioner

4 By *s/ Geoffrey M. Godfrey*  
5 Geoffrey M. Godfrey